

MONEY FIGHT

Chapter Thirty-Eight: Low Energy

MIX UP



KOHANA TACHIBANA (17)

Coch Tachibana's daughter. Currently training to be a gym manager. Unlike her father, who prefers carefully planned fight strategies, Kohana possesses a knack for reading the flow of a match and on-the-fly decision making. Never overlooking an opponent's weaknesses and mental frailty, she is equally belligerent toward her own fighters.



HIS DEBUT
FIGHT WAS
AGAINST
KYOKUKEI
GYM'S
SNIPER
FUJITA.

HE HAD A HARD TIME
GETTING HITS IN
AGAINST FUJITA'S 7'3"
STATURE, BUT MAN-
AGED TO KNOCK HIM
OUT TWO MINUTES
AND SIX SECONDS IN
THE THIRD ROUND.



HIS SECOND FIGHT
WAS AGAINST
GANOU GYM'S
MICKY MARUYAMA,
WHOSE OFFICIAL
HEIGHT IS 4'3"

MITARAI WON BY
A DEVASTATING
KNOCK OUT ONE
MINUTE AND TWENTY
SECONDS INTO THE
FIRST ROUND.

THEY SAID HE
MOVES SO
QUICKLY THAT
HIS OPPONENT
SEEMS TO
FREEZE, COM-
PLETELY.

FOR THE ROOKIE
KING TOURNAMENT
PRELIMINARIES,
HE FACED THE
FASTEST MONK
IN THE EAST.
TENSUO, ALSO
KNOWN AS
"SKANDA."

THE STANDS
WERE MOSTLY
FILLED WITH
WOMEN, MAKING
METARAI THE
VISITING TEAM.

KAH!

HIS THIRD
FIGHT WAS
AGAINST
PRETTY BOY
HIGH SCHOOL
BOXER AND
LORD OF COUN-
TERS, SOUTA
"PRINCE"
SATOU.

METARAI WON BY
TKO ONE MINUTE
AND FIFTY SIX
SECONDS IN THE
SECOND ROUND.

WOOOO!
—♡

THOUGH HIS
STRIKING BECAME
KIND OF RANDOM
DUE TO NERVES, HE
PULLED OUT A KO
THIRTY-TWO SEC-
ONDS INTO THE
THIRD ROUND.

THOUGH HE
WAS HAILED
AS UNBEATABLE,
METARAI KNOCKED
HIM OUT TWO
MINUTES AND
FIFTY SECONDS
INTO THE FOURTH
ROUND.

IN THE EAST
JAPAN ROOKIE
KING FINALS,
HE FOUGHT
YOTSUNOTO
GYM'S KENDO
"INVINCIBLE"
DOJO.

WITH A BODY AS
TIGHT AS THAT OF AN IN-
VERTEBRATE, KENDO
WAS CAPABLE OF
ABSORBING COUNT-
LESS PUNCHES AND
DISPERSING THE
DAMAGE.



AND AT THE NATIONAL ROOKIE KING TOUR-
NAMENT FINALS, HE
DEFEATED DAIMON
GYM'S OWN SHINNO-
SUKE, "TRICKSTER"
KURESHIMA IN THE
FIRST ROUND AND
WAS AWARDED MVP.

A DEFEAT SO EMBAR-
RASSING, COACH
DAIMON FORCED
KURESHIMA TO
RETIRE, A BOXER
HE'D TAKEN UNDER
HIS WING. THAT
SUMS UP MITARAI'S
BOXING HISTORY.



KENJIRO-
SEN, YOU
PICKED A
BAD KID
TO SEND AN
OFFER TO.

KANRYU GYM CHAIRMAN
MIKIO NOUJOU

HIS
KO VICTORY
AGAINST BAZE
THE OTHER DAY
IS NO DOUBT
GOING TO
SCARE PEOPLE
OFF EVEN
MORE.

HAVING RISEN
THE RANKS IN
JAPAN, HE'S
STARTING TO
HAVE A HARD
TIME FINDING
OPPONENTS
APPARENTLY.



THE HELL
DID YOU
SAY?! DO
YOU THINK
KENO'S
GONNA LOSE,
NOUJOU?!
HUH?!

SLAM

LET'S PRO-
LONG THE
MATCH! LET
AND SAY
KENO GOT
INJURED
OR SOME-
THING!

WE'VE DUCKED
OUT OF INVITA-
TIONS FROM
PLENTY OF
DANGEROUS
FIGHTERS THAT
WAY UNTIL NOW!

I'M JUST
SAYING YOU
SHOULD AVOID
THOSE FIGHTERS
WHO CAN CHANGE
THE FLOW OF A
MATCH WITH A
SINGLE PUNCH.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
SAID.

WHAT CAN I
DO? KENO SAID
HE'D KILL THE
CONTRACT
UNLESS KENO
FIGHTS HIM.

WHY IS HE
TRYING TO
KILL ME?
I'M NOT
A FIGHTER!
I'M A
FIGHTER!

WHY IS HE
TRYING TO
KILL ME?
I'M NOT
A FIGHTER!
I'M A
FIGHTER!

DAMN IT!





THIS
IS
NUTS,
BRO!



Page 14 of 15



WOAH THIS
IS JUST LIKE
WHEN APOLLO
CHALLENGED
ROCKY.

IT'S THE
AMERICAN
DREAM
NO, THE
JAPANESE
DREAM!

WHAT
ARE THEY
SAYING
ONLINE?

MOST
PEOPLE
PREDICT
YOU'RE
GOING
TO WIN.

"KAZUO IS
FINISHED!"
REUTERS
A 5400-3478 NEWS
SAY 5432 IS
GOING TO BE
THE GREATEST
FIGHT OF OUR
GENERATION.



IS WHAT
I'M READ-
ING ON
THE NET
TRUE?

YOU'VE ONLY
BEEN A PRO
FOR TWO
YEARS, BUT
YOU ALREADY
HAVE A
WORLD TITLE
MATCH!

YEAH, THERE'S
GOING TO BE
A PRESS CON-
FERENCE SOON
APPARENTLY.



I GUESS
SO, HUH?

YEAH.



YOU'LL BE
WORLD
CHAMPION
IF YOU
WIN!



EVER SINCE HE WAS KNOCKED DOWN IN HIS FIRST WORLD TITLE MATCH, HIS FIGHTING STYLE CHANGED COMPLETELY.

GOING

WRESTLE FROM KARAOKE

THIS IS THE

GOING

GOING

WE'VE REACHED THE LAST MILESTONE OF THE MATCH!

TRUCAL LENGTH CAN'T BEAT BACK!

He is, Trucal, you know him.

IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S SWITCHED HIS GAME TO DEFENSE RATHER THAN OFFENSE.

HE DOESN'T FOLLOW THROUGH WITH EACH PUNCH LIKE HE USED TO.

STAY BACK AND JAB. HE'S MORE SO TAPPING THAN REALLY DRIVING HOME.

AFTER HE THROWS HE IMMEDIATELY CLINCHES TO TAKE AWAY ANY RANGE HIS OPPONENT CAN UTILIZE.

THAT RIGHT HE THROWS FROM A CERTAIN DISTANCE. HE MAKES UP FOR THE LACK OF POWER WITH ENOUGH SPEED THAT HIS OPPONENT CAN'T REACT.

ANOTHER NO-MOTION RIGHT!

BUT THE REAL DANGER IS...





I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY PRASTIC OF THEM TO SEND AN OFFER.



BUT I WAS EVEN MORE SURPRISED WHEN YOU ACCEPTED, COACH TACHIBANA.



THIS WAS A BIG HELP. SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, OHARA.

IT'S NO TROUBLES. THIS VIDEO WAS TAKEN DOWN QUICKLY SINCE THE FIGHT WAS SO ROUGH.

I HAVE OTHER VIDEOS OF KANAKA'S FIGHTS, SO LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE.



AND IF KENO MAKES A COMEBACK, THE KANAKAS REALLY WILL HAVE THE BOXING WORLD UNDER THEIR THUMB.

IF METARAI LOSES TO KENO, IT'S GOING TO TARNISH THE CAREER HE'S BUILT UP SO FAR.



I DON'T MEAN TO SAY META-RAI HAS NO HOPES OF WINNING.

ONLY THAT IT'S ODD FOR YOU TO AGREE WHEN THE CHANCES OF VICTORY ARE ONLY 50-50.



...GET STRONGER THROUGH PRACTICE, AND GROW THROUGH MATCHES.

MY GOAL IS TO LEAD BOXERS TO VICTORY, BUT I CAN'T MAKE THEM FOLLOW MY ORDERS.



THIS MATCH IS TOO RISKY.



BOXERS...



IT COST HIM THE MATCH, BUT I FELT HONOR IN HIS FIGHT.

HE DIDN'T LISTEN TO MY ORDERS AND WENT IN FOR A MELEE.

I USED TO TRAIN A MAN WHO SHOULD HAVE BECOME A WORLD CHAMPION.

I FELT THAT THIS IS WHAT REALLY MAKES A BOXER.

タチハ



I'LL
DO IT!

AND BOXERS ARE
WHAT I RAISE...



IF I WIN, I'LL
COMPLETELY
SKIP THE
JAPAN TITLE
AND BECOME
WORLD CHAMP,
RIGHT?

OH? FEELING
CONFIDENT AFTER
BEATING BABE?
EVEN THOUGH
YOU COMPLAINED
ABOUT MY
MATCHMAKING
UNTIL NOW.



I WON'T KNOW
UNLESS I TRY!
I'VE RASSED A
NUMBER OF
UPSET WINS
UNTIL NOW!

GET YOUR HEAD
OUTTA YOUR ASS,
KID! YOU'RE NOT
READY TO TAKE THE
JAPAN CHAMPION
TITLE, LET ALONE
THE WORLD TITLE!

AND WITH
THE FANS,
COMES THE
DOUGH!
GAHAHAHA!



THE
BOXERS
ARE THE
STARS.



WE'RE PROS
IT'S OUR
JOB TO MAKE
PEOPLE WANT
TO WATCH

WE CAN'T
DISAPPOINT
THE FANS.



DAD! DO YOU
HAVE ANY IDEA
WHAT TIME IT
IS?! THE ELEC-
TRICITY BILL
IS GOING—



WHAT'S A
SCOUNDREL
JOURNALIST
LIKE YOU
DOING
HERE?!

YOU'RE
RECORDING
MORE AND
MORE LIKE
YOUR FATHER,
KONDA-
GAM



AH!
CHARA!



AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PAST. YOU WERE ONLY DOING YOUR JOB.



SORRY, OHARA.

WELL, THEN, LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.



COMPENSA-TION?

WHAT WAS THAT, OHARA ?!



WHAT, COACH TACHIBANA? DO YOU THINK I'M HELPING YOU BECAUSE I FEEL SMALL?

I EXPECT COMPEN-SATION IN THE FUTURE.



...KEND KANAYA LOSE LIKE A DOG.



I WANT TO SEE...





LET'S GO, SHOTARO!
YOU'RE HERE FOR
A LESSON,
SO DON'T
HYPER!

O-OKAY.

COOL. I'M
OFFERING
ANOTHER.

MOST PRE-
TENTIONS
I EVER HAD
OF ELITE
FIGHTERS.



REALLY?

I THINK
YOU WERE
MINE AT
THE TIME.



I'M OLDER,
FATHER.
SAYING I'M
THE SHOTARO-
SAND

TACHIBANA
GYUN'S SHOTARO
MITARAS. HERE
FOR A SPAR-
RING WATCH!



AH...
YES!

ARE YOUR
WOUNDS
ALL
HEALING?

YOUR LAST
WATCH WAS
AMAZING,
MITARAS-
KUN.

SENSEI-GUN PRESIDENT
RYUJI SONGZAKI



IT'S AN
HONOR,
PRESIDENT
SONGZAKI.
THANK YOU
FOR INVIT-
ING US.

WHOA!
IT'S
HUGE!

THANKS
FOR COMING
OUT, COACH
TACHIBANA.
KOMARU-
OMU.

TH-
THANK
YOU

HAPPY TO
BE HERE!



SO HE'S THE
GUY WHO
DOMINATED
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
CIRCLES.



MIYAKI HAS
POWER, BUT
HE'S NOT AS
TECHNICAL
AS HORIKI.

THIS SHOULD BE
GOOD PRACTICE
FOR YAGURUMA'S
COMING FIGHT
AGAINST THE
SLUGGER,
HIDEI.



THE JAPAN
BANTAMWEIGHT
CHAMPION...

...AND TOOK
THE TITLE ON
HIS THIRD
MATCH AFTER
HIS PRO
DEBUT.

**SOUSHI
YAGURUMA!**



AW! HERE
HE IS!

YO!



THE TRADER
WILL GO
OVER THE
DETAILS.
IT'S ALMOST
TIME...



GO-

WH-



LONG TIME,
NO SEE,
NITARAI.

GOTOU-
SAN?!

WHAT IS GOTOU DOING HERE?!